United Nations E/CONF.105/88

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
30 June 2017

Original: English

Eleventh United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names
New York, 8-17 August 2017
Item 10 of the provisional agenda*
Geographical names as culture, heritage and identity (including indigenous, minority and regional language names)

Geographical names and linguistic minorities

Summary**

It is indicated in the report that a white paper on the Sami language has been published.[1] Discussed in that white paper, among other things, are the safeguarding and use of geographical names in Sami. Reference is made to previous cases of place names in Sami having been hidden, rewritten in Norwegian and/or removed from maps. Sami place names now enjoy strong legal protection under national legislation, specifically the Sami Act and the Place Names Act. There are also international obligations in this regard.

Emphasis is laid on the duty of the public authorities to actively promote the use of Sami place names in Sami-language areas.

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* E/CONF.105/1.

** The full report was prepared by Lisa Monica Aslaksen, Sami Parliament of Norway. The report is available from http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/UNGEGN/ungegnConf11.html, in the language of submission only, as document E/CONF.105/88/CRP.88.

[1] Available from https://www.regjeringen.no/no/dokumenter/nou-2016-18/id2515222/.

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